

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Suba 1. An information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:  
forming a specific user's own initial user model based on the general user selection taste data consisting of classification items and information contents on the basis of the general user group classified according to an user attribute and/or the state of information utilization, and based on the basic information selection taste data of said specific user; and  
retrieving the information suiting said specific user based on said initial user model.

2. The information retrieval method according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:  
forming a study user model on the basis of said initial user model and the information selection history of said specific user; and  
retrieving the information suiting said specific user based on said study user model.

Sub B 3. The information retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein:  
said general user selection taste data is the data that continuous data is converted into dispersed data; and  
said dispersed data is interpolated by a predetermined interpolation method to calculate said continuous data.

4. The information retrieval method according to claim 3,  
wherein

said interpolation method is a method of interpolating in  
accordance with said user attribute and/or said state of  
information utilization.

5. The information retrieval method according to claim 1,  
wherein:

said general user selection taste data is the data that  
continuous data is converted into dispersed data; and

said dispersed data is converted into said continuous data  
by using a predetermined corresponding function.

6. The information retrieval method according to claim 5,  
wherein

said general user selection taste data being said dispersed  
data is converted into said specific user's own continuous data.

Suba27 7. An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:

storing means for storing the general user selection taste  
data consisting of classification items and information contents  
on the basis of the general user group classified according to an  
user attribute and/or the state of information utilization;

initial user model forming means for forming a specific

user's own initial user model based on said general user selection taste data read out from said storing means and the basic information selection taste data of said specific user; and retrieving means for retrieving the information suiting said specific user based on said initial user model.

8. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, comprising:

study user model forming means for forming a study user model on the basis of said initial user model and the information selection history of said specific user; wherein,

the information suiting said specific user is retrieved based on said study user model,

9. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said storing means stores said general user selection taste data that continuous data is converted into dispersed data;

said initial user model forming means interpolates said dispersed data by a predetermined interpolation method to calculate said continuous data.

10. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

said storing means stores the identification key for

specifying said interpolation method, together with said dispersed data.

11. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said storing means stores said general user selection taste data that continuous data is converted into dispersed data; and

said initial user model forming means converts said dispersed data into said continuous data by using a predetermined corresponding function.

12. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said corresponding function is stored in said storing means together with said dispersed data.

13. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said general user selection taste data being said dispersed data is converted into said specific user's own continuous data.

14. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, comprising:

rewriting means for rewriting the general user selection taste data of said storing means onto another storing means for

rewriting; wherein,

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said information retrieval apparatus rewrites the data of  
said storing means.

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